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RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 0545
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
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RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 000371

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/31/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KCOR](#) [KCRM](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: NIGER DELTA: NO EXTENSION OF AMNESTY DEADLINE;
MEND SPLIT

REF: A. ABUJA 1669

[1](#)B. LAGOS 369

[1](#)C. LAGOS 362

[1](#)D. LAGOS 356

[1](#)E. LAGOS 348

[1](#)F. LAGOS 345

Classified By: A/Consul General Richard Walsh, Reasons 1.4 (B,D)

[1](#)1. (C) Contacts linked to key militant leader "Tom Polo" have reported to us independently that Tom Polo is not ready to surrender until he receives credible assurances from the GON on economic development in the Gbaramatu Kingdom, his home base and scene of a military offensive in May. To this end he and others, who claim interest in a lasting solution to the Niger Delta crisis, have been urging the GON to extend the amnesty deadline to allow time for dialogue and negotiation. The GON, however, continues to insist that the deadline will not be extended beyond October 4.

[1](#)2. (C) "Jomo Gbomo," who has long claimed to be a spokesman for the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), issued a press statement on September 28 asserting that prominent Nigerians have "agreed" to represent MEND in a "dialogue" with the Federal Government. Notably, he implied that such negotiations are not on-going by stating the negotiators would become active "whenever the government realizes the need to adopt meaningful dialogue as a means of halting the violent agitation in the Niger Delta."

[1](#)3. (C) Before the government's amnesty offer was made June 24, the figures most closely associated with MEND were the captured gun-runner Henry Okah and militant leaders "Boyloaf" and "Tom Polo." Jomo Gbomo was presumed to speak for them. However, the GON granted amnesty to Henry Okah July 13 and Boyloaf accepted amnesty on August 7.

[1](#)4. (C) COMMENT: MEND appears to be deeply splint among those accepting amnesty and those holding out for more concessions. Jomo Gbomo at best speaks for the latter, including "Tom Polo. END COMMENT.

[1](#)5. (U) This cable has been coordinated with Embassy Abuja.
WALSH